ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 9
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 8th Nov 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back for the second half of our first term. I hope you all had a great break last week.

It's been straight back into an action-packed week at St Michael's with swimming lessons for Year 4, some interesting visitors from Aladdin, a drama workshop for KS1, a number of football fixtures against local schools and finishing off with Aspirations Day for our KS2 children. Phew!

Now we are back into usual drop off and collection routines, please may I remind everyone to drive and parking safely and responsibly. If you witness dangerous parking/driving, please report this to Bucks Council or the police depending on the circumstance.

Wishing you a great weekend as always.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Mon 11th Nov – Peter Pan Day
Friday 15th Nov – Children In Need – Wear it spotty!
Friday 22nd Nov – Year 3 Class Assembly
Friday 29th Nov – Year 6 Class Assembly
Wed 11th Dec – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Wed 11th Dec – School Discos
Thurs 12th Dec – Year 1 Nativity 9.10am
Friday 13th Dec – Year 4 Christingle Service
Friday 13th Dec – Foundation Nativity 2.45pm
Wed 18th Dec – Year 2 Nativity 9.10am
Friday 20th Dec – End of Term

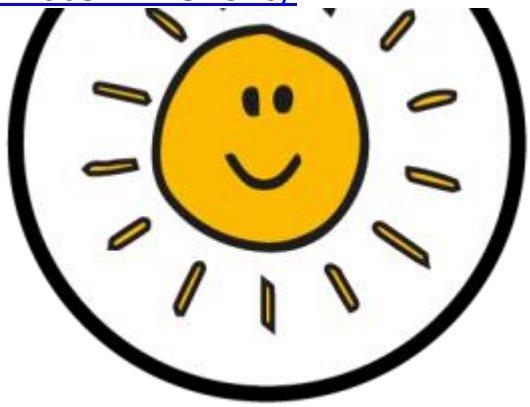
ASTROS

A number of children wear astro trainers on their PE days and although these are suitable for grass and MUGA surfaces, we have noticed an increase in the number of incidents when they are worn on the playground as they are more slippery against the hard ground. As a result, if your child has the opportunity to wear normal trainers on PE days we suggest this is a safer option. If you are happy for your child to wear astros, then that is acceptable, but please be aware that it can be slippery, especially now the weather tends to be damper.

MESSAGE FROM MRS HANN

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning have got some fantastic opportunities both in person and online in a wide range of areas e.g. "Support your ADHD child at home" https://adultlearningbc.ac.uk/courses/support-your-adhd-child-at-home-fmac13524251ona/ - free of charge and online.

This one is also free of charge and online. https://adultlearningbc.ac.uk/courses/healthy-happy-and-fun-free-christmas-holiday-ideas-for-you-and-your-child-fmwb05224251ona/



Take a minute to see if any of the available courses take your interest.

Best wishes as always
H Hann

Learning Mentor, DSL and Acting SENCo
My usual working pattern is Monday to Wednesday in school.

Chess News from Mr McClellan

By the end of term, an enthusiastic group of beginners will have completed their "Introduction to Chess" course. There is much more to learn and, provided that they have enjoyed learning about the game, I hope that most will continue next term.

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During the Spring Term more emphasis is placed on competition as children are entered for the U.K. Chess Challenge and may be joined by other children in the school who have previously completed the Introductory Course.

Every lesson will also include a teaching element where something new about how to play better chess will be introduced.

Chess is not an easy game, but the more you learn and practise the better you get.

May I remind parents that any child who has completed the Introductory Course in the past and would like to rejoin the club in the Spring Term is welcome to do so.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

Well done to these superstars for being this week's Golden Learners.

Foundation	**Thomas, Lily-Rae, Harry**
Year 1	**Aubrey, Lottie, Harry**
Year 2	**Marni, Lilia, Louis**
Year 3	**Siena, Iris, Edie B**
Year 4	**Grae, Gabriel W-C, Edward**
Year 5	**Tia, Willow, Amelie**
Year 6	**Harry Ba, Madison, Gracie**

ATTENDANCE AWARD

Wow Year 4! An amazing 100% attendance from you superstars this week! Well done!

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ASPIRATIONS DAY

What a fabulous morning our KS2 children had today! Mrs Deverill organised a wide variety of interesting and inspiring locals to come and talk to the children about their careers. It was great to see the children so engaged in the sessions and hear them asking lots of inquisitive questions.

A huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers who gave up their morning to come and inspire the next generation of pilots, engineers, police officers, psychologists, geologists, nurses, civil servants, F1 employees, counsellors, travel agents, super car manufacturer and haulage business owners.

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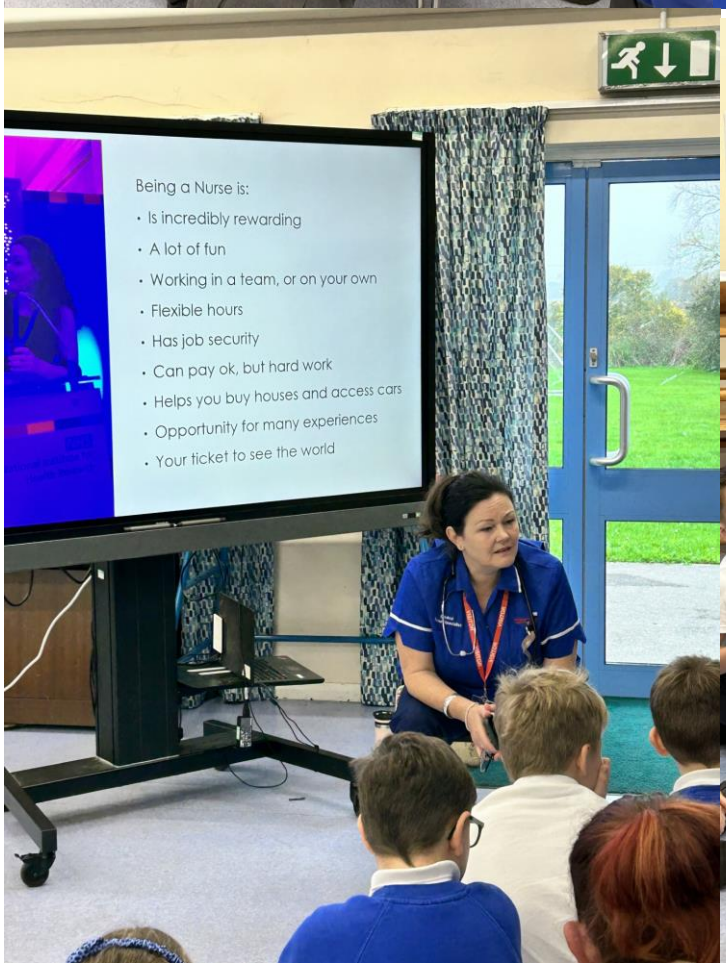
AWARD

TWITCH
M.G.LEONARD


Being a Nurse is:
• Is incredibly rewarding
• A lot of fun
• Working in a team, or on your own
• Flexible hours
• Has job security
• Can pay ok, but hard work
• Helps you buy houses and access cars
• Opportunity for many experiences
• Your ticket to see the world

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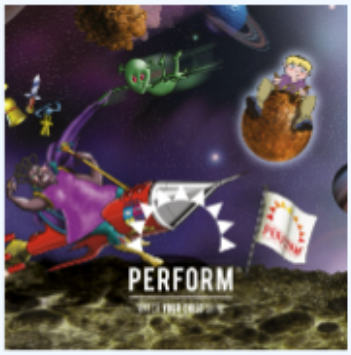
A visit from Perform



We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Thursday 7th November. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of *Outer Space* and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of *Outer Space*. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click here to download it free or here to find out more about the *Outer Space* theme.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering **a special introductory discount** to all parents of St Michael's Cofe Combined School if they come along for a free trial session before Friday 27th December.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **STMH271224** or book a Free Trial Session online at perform.org.uk/try.

Here are some of the nearest Perform classes to the school:

Perform Heath & Reach **(4.8 miles)** **Tuesdays at 4pm**	St Leonards Church Hall Leighton Road, LU7 0AA
Perform Wendover **(11.3 miles)** **Tuesdays at 4pm**	Wendover Memorial Hall Wharf Road, HP22 6HF
Perform Berkhamsted **(14.1 miles)** **Wednesdays at 4pm**	All Saints' Church Hall Shrublands Road, HP4 3HY
Perform Biscot **(14.3 miles)** **Fridays at 4pm (Opens January 2025)**	The Olive Tree Church St Margaret's Church, LU3 1HT
Perform Bicester **(17.6 miles)** **Wednesdays at 4.15pm**	West Bicester Community Centre Bowmont Square, OX26 2GJ

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest here or view a list of all areas.

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Penalty Notices for School Attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following will come into force for absences that start after 19th August 2024. This is nationwide and across borders if you move school or house. Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances when communicated in advance with evidence provided as soon as possible to the Headteacher.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first Penalty Notice issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days and reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid with 21 days

SECOND OFFENCE

For the second Penalty Notice (within three years of the first offence) issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered

THIRD OFFENCE AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. If found guilty there could be up to a maximum fine of £2,500 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

In law only the headteacher of a school can authorise a child's absence. A pupil's attendance forms part of their official school record.

Parents do not have an automatic right to remove their child from school during term time for the purpose of a leave of absence and are strongly advised not to do so.

Headteachers are unable to authorise leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, unavoidable and short. 'Unavoidable' implies that an event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

<u>10 sessions in 10 weeks</u>

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

5 consecutive days of term time absence can trigger a Penalty Notice.

Do not forget that Penalty Notices are issued Per Parent. Per Child.
i.e. Two siblings absent would result in each parent receiving 2 fines. This could amount to £640

MR DAY'S ST MICHAEL'S SPORTING ROUNDUP

St Michael's 5-3 Whitchurch

Our year 6 boys finally beat fierce rivals Whitchurch after losing to them 4 times last season. The boys put in one of their best ever performances to beat last year's league champions. Things started well with Josh scoring from a great cross by Harry Brown. Zed doubled the lead with a volley from a corner and St Michael's went in to half time 2-0 up. Another Josh goal straight after the break was followed by a great goal by Edward T, who was a menace up front all day. Whitchurch scored two quick goals but St Michael's got another through a sharp finish from Zed and even though the visitor's got a third, St M's easily held their lead to the end.
A brilliant result and performance, all the boys should be very proud of their efforts.
St Michael's - Josh (capt), Riley, Benjamin, Cade, Henry, Harry Ba, Harry Br, Edward S, Edward T, Zed
Player of the Match: Josh

GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

ABSENCE

If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the office via phone/email/ text prior to 9.15am. Please confirm on every consecutive day they will be absent, until they return. Please note: If we do not know the reason by 9.15am, we will text or ring you and any unexplained absences will be reported as unauthorised.

If they have suffered from vomit or diarrhoea, please do not return your child until **48 hours** since their last episode.

Please also note that if your child is on a course of anti-biotics, we are able to administer the medication if they are prescribed 4 doses per day. The medication must be delivered to the office by a parent and a medical consent form completed before we can administer the anti-biotics.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners can be ordered via Parent Pay.

The deadline for booking is a **Sunday at midnight, 1 week in advance**. If you require a Special/Medical Diet Menu please contact the office.

If you need to cancel a school dinner after the deadline, you must give 48 hours' notice and call Chartwells on 01908 615705 or email creativekitchenadmin2@comp.

BREAKFAST CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please book your sessions for Breakfast and After School Clubs via Parentpay before midnight on Thursday for the following week.

ATTENDANCE

Just to remind our parents if any child has an attendance rate of less than 92%, Mr Morley will be in contact with parents to make them aware of the situation with a view to improving the child's attendance at school which has a direct impact on their learning.

Our Attendance Policy states that all holiday related absence in term time will be recorded as 'Unauthorised'. From 1st September 2023, the school will be submitting this data to the local authority and Buckinghamshire Council will begin the process of issuing fines.

Christmas Tree Festival

At St Michael and All Angels Church Stewkley

Mulled wine, mince pies cake and raffle throughout

6 DECEMBER

Open for viewing
3.30pm - 7.30pm

Santa's Grotto
opens its magical doors
from 3:30pm

7 DECEMBER

Open for viewing
3.00pm - 7.00pm

Live Organ medley
of Christmas numbers
from 3.15pm

8 DECEMBER

Open for viewing
3.00pm - 7.00pm

Songbirds
from 3.15 pm

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We had some interesting guests to our morning assembly on Thursday! Please make sure you get your tickets for the Aladdin performances later this month. Details on the posters – the enthusiasm yesterday indicates it's not to be missed!

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Preloved parent, children and baby goods

Profits go to NCT Charity

Nearly New Sale – Leighton Buzzard

Toys, nursery items, buggies, dressing up, maternity, shoes and clothes from newborn to 15 years!

Saturday 16th November
2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

£1.50 per adult (no need to book)

1.30 p.m. early entry for NCT members

Limited pre-bookable early bird entry 1.45p.m £2.50 (non-members)

Seller places £5 – keep up to 80% of profits! (contact to book)

Brooklands Middle School
Brooklands Drive, LU73PF
nns.leightonbuzzard@nct.org.uk

NCT is acting as the agent for sellers at NCT Nearly New sales.

NCT is a trading name of The National Childbirth Trust.
Limited company registered in England and Wales: 2370573.
Registered office: Brunel House, 11 The Promenade, Clifton Down, Bristol BS8 3NG.
Registered charity in England and Wales: 801395 and Scotland: SC041592.

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